

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION INR-05

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 PM-03 RSC-01 /030 W

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P R 061153Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1892

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2578

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SY, US

SUBJECT: DATT OFFICE DAMASCUS

1. COS SHIHABI ADVISED ME NOVEMBER 5 THAT SARG WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE A US MILITARY ATTACHE IN DAMASCUS. FOR ITS PART SARG WOULD OVER COMING MONTHS IDENTIFY A QUALIFIED ENGLISH LANGUAGE OFFICER TO REPRESENT THE SYRIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN WASHINGTON. USG MAY SEND ITS ATTACHE, SHIHABI NOTED, AT ANY TIME.

2. SHIHABI THEN COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED THE PENTAGON WOULD "SELECT A REAL DIPLOMAT FOR THIS JOB AND NOT A COWBOY WHO WOULD ONLY MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT FOR HIM (SHIHABI) AND FOR THE EMBASSY. THE DATT'S PERSONAL SENSITIVITY WILL HAVE A BASIC EFFECT ON THE WAY HE DOES HIS JOB." I RESPONDED I HAD NO NEED OF COWBOYS ON MY STAFF WHO WOULD COURT ARREST BY TAKING PICTURES AT DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OR ELSEWHERE.

3. CONTINUING, SHIHABI OBSERVED THAT FORMER ASSISTANT ATTACHE IN DAMASCUS MUNDY HAD BEEN EXCELLENT MAN AND ASKED IF HE COULD BE ASSIGNED AGAIN TO DAMASCUS. I SAID I BELIEVED MUNDY WAS PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO ANOTHER JOB BUT WOULD INQUIRE IF HE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR A RETURN ASSIGNMENT HERE.

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RM COMMENT: AM PLEASED WITH FAVORABLE SYRIAN ATTITUDE

ON RECEIVING DATT. DATT IN DAMASCUS WILL BE ADEQUATELY STAFFED WITH ONE COMMISSIONED OFFICER. THERE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH WORK FOR INDEFINITE FUTURE EVEN FOR THIS SINGLE REP. I REQUEST THAT NECESSARY SUPPORT SERVICES BE ARRANGED WITH DATT BEIRUT IN ORDER RESTRICT DATT PERSONNEL IN DAMASCUS TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. I ASSUME ONE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER HERE WOULD BE AMPLE.

5. IN LIGHT SHIHABI'S SPECIFIC MENTION OF MUNDY, ADVISE IF HE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE. WOULD BE IDEAL WAY RE-ESTABLISH OFFICE HERE AND CREATE NECESSARY CONFIDENCE.

6. EMBASSY UNABLE SUPPORT DATT'S PRESENCE HERE PRIOR 1975. DOD TO ADVISE ITS TARGET DATE.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ATTACHES, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 AUG 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DATT OFFICE DAMASCUS  
**TAGS:** MILI, SY, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005